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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/037,190	11/09/2001	Martin Dubs	H60-102 US	6717

21706 7590 07/15/2003

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EXAMINER

VERSTEEG, STEVEN H

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

1753

DATE MAILED: 07/15/2003

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No. 10/037,190	Applicant(s) DUBS, MARTIN
Examiner Steven H VerSteeg	Art Unit 1753

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 June 2003.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 13-29 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 13-29 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 09 November 2001 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

2. Claims 13-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as based on a disclosure which is not enabling. "Asymmetric layer formation of the disk" is critical or essential to the practice of the invention, but not included in the claim(s) is not enabled by the disclosure. See *In re Mayhew*, 527 F.2d 1229, 188 USPQ 356 (CCPA 1976). Applicant is directed to page 3, lines 1-6 where Applicant explicitly states that the subject matter is essential.

Response to Amendment

3. The objection to the specification presented in the office action mailed February 28, 2003 is withdrawn in light of the amendment.
4. The claim objections presented in the office action mailed February 28, 2003 are withdrawn in light of the cancellation of those claims.
5. The 112 first and second paragraph rejections presented in the office action mailed February 28, 2003 are withdrawn in light of the cancellation of the claims rejected. However, it is noted that a new 112-first paragraph rejection is presented above.
6. The 103(a) rejections presented in the office action mailed February 28, 2003 are withdrawn in light of the cancellation of the claims.

Allowable Subject Matter

7. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: it is neither anticipated nor obvious over the prior art of record to have a method for manufacturing a storage disk using asymmetrical layer formation comprising applying an arrangement of layers including a reflection layer system on a first side of the substrate and applying a protection layer system to a second side of the substrate that comprises at least one layer of at least one of silicon oxinitride and substoichiometric silicon oxide.

8. US 5,965,228 to Kügler discloses a method of making an information carrier, but there is no protection layer system.

9. EP 516,178 A2 to Itoh discloses the benefits of using a protective layer system.

10. EP 834,874 A2 to Ohno discloses good materials for protective layers in a storage disk system (col. 12, l. 10-26). Of the materials, oxides, sulfides, nitrides, or carbides of numerous elements can be used. One of the elements is silicon. Of the protective layer materials, they do not have to be stoichiometrical. Thus, substoichiometric silicon oxide is an option, but only if one uses Applicant's teachings for guidance. Of all of the possible combinations in Ohno, there is no motivation to specifically use substoichiometric silicon oxide unless hindsight reasoning is used.

11. Also, there is no teaching in the prior art of record to use silicon oxinitride as the protective layer. Thus, no reference individually or in combination teaches the allowable subject matter described above.

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General Information

For general status inquiries on applications not having received a first action on the merits, please contact the Technology Center 1700 receptionist at (703) 308-0661.

For inquiries involving Recovery of lost papers & cases, sending out missing papers, resetting shortened statutory periods, or for restarting the shortened statutory period for response, please contact Palestine Jenkins at (703) 308-3521.

For general inquiries such as fees, hours of operation, and employee location, please contact the Technology Center 1700 receptionist at (703) 308-0661.

Conclusion

12. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Steven H VerSteeg whose telephone number is (703) 305-4473. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon - Thurs (7:30 AM - 6:00 PM).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nam X Nguyen can be reached on (703) 308-3322. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9310 for regular communications and (703) 872-9311 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0661.



Steven H VerSteeg
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1753

shv
July 15, 2003